

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~**CONFIDENTIAL**CLASSIFICATION ~~SECRET/CONTROL/US OFFICIALS ONLY~~COUNTRY Poland

REPORT

TOPIC Polish Troops in Oswiecim and Jaworzno

EVALUATION

PLACE OBTAINED

50X1-HUM

DATE OF CONTENT

DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED 15 August 1950

REFERENCES

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. Three of nine multiple-story brick buildings in the southern section of the former concentration camp of Oswiecim (Q 51/Y 74) were remodeled as troop quarters from February to 10 April 1950. They had not been occupied up to that time.
2. An infantry unit of about 500 men arrived in the concentration camp on several trains after February 1950. Most of the soldiers had been conscripted in Pomerania, East Prussia and West Prussia in the fall of 1949. The troops were usually trained with wooden rifles, and only a very few carbines and machine guns were observed. The troops almost daily left the camp organized into four companies. The soldiers also worked in the coal mines, working in three shifts.
3. Three more buildings were scheduled for conversion into troop quarters in April 1950. They were to house 500 more troops who were expected to arrive in late April or early May 1950.
4. In April 1950 three barracks buildings of the former concentration camp were occupied by about 500 Polish soldiers, including personnel of the 1928 class. * Five hundred beds were moved into these buildings on 17 and 18 April 1950. About 500 soldiers arrived between 14 and 21 April 1950. The Polish troops in the former 50X1-HUM concentration camp numbered about 1,000 men⁹⁸ and after 21 April 1950, ** The soldiers wore white-bordered red collar patches, white-bordered red epaulets and white and red bands around their caps. The troops were trained in and near the billeting area and worked in mines for two or three hours daily with the morning or afternoon shift.
5. About 250 Polish soldiers coming from Stettin and Krakow, moved into the cantonment, about 500 meters east of the Jaworzno (Q 51/Y 76) railroad station, on 19 April 1950. The cantonment buildings had been remodeled in early April 1950 to serve as troop quarters. ** The soldiers wore round visor-type caps with a red band and an emblem with the Polish eagle. The rank insignia was on the epaulets and above the emblem. A corporal wore two white cross-bars, a sergeant one white chevron, a senior

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sergeant two white chevrons and a lieutenant one brass star. The troops wore blue-bordered red and white-bordered red collar patches and white-bordered red epaulets.

6. The troops mostly had wooden rifles. One platoon, however, carried rifles and four machine guns when marching out for a field exercise.

*  Comment. In December 1949 the former concentration camp of Oswiecim housed Polish troops who were committed to work in mines.

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**  Comment. The units probably consisted of personnel of special categories who were subject to special military service in accordance with Article 48 of the Universal Military Service Law of 4 February 1950. Several units of this type were previously observed in the coal mining area of Upper Silesia. 

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